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SUBJECT Russian Colony in Shanghai

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. The Russian colony in Shanghai now [1953] consists of about 200 stateless "White" Russians carrying International Refugee Organization [IRO] papers, and about two thousand carrying Soviet papers. This figure does not include Soviet advisers or Soviet officials.

A few of the "stateless" group have or had Chinese passports but the Communist authorities no longer recognize these passports. Nearly all of the two thousand Soviet Russians took out their Soviet papers in 1946-47 and were part of the original "White" Russian colony. Many Russians of both groups have left Shanghai since 1949 to go to Brazil, Canada and Australia. While most of the Soviet citizens are such in name only, some are convinced Communists, and among the Soviet citizens who have emigrated are a number of the convinced Communists. [] a few of these managed to get visas for Canada. This may represent a hazard because the USSR consular officials in Shanghai when granting Soviet citizens permission to emigrate give them detailed instructions of how to get in touch with the USSR diplomatic or consular establishment nearest to their new places of residence and urge them to do so.

2. There is much unemployment in the Shanghai Russian colony. Just before Christmas 1952 the Chinese authorities called on the Soviet's Citizens Association to prepare a list of indigent Soviet citizens. The Association submitted a list of 400 names, which did not include "stateless" Russian-indigents. The Chinese authorities checked the list and removed about half the names, presumably those who still had some assets.

The relief is likely to be minimal; probably a few pounds of rice per week.

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3. When the Chinese authorities took over the public utilities in Shanghai they discharged all foreign employees including Russians, both "stateless" and Soviet citizens. All discharged employees received severance pay. A number of the Russians were unable to find other employment and when they had exhausted their severance pay they applied for re-employment in their old jobs. Some were taken back but on Chinese pay scales.
4. Many Russians including some Soviet citizens have been receiving assistance from IRO. It does not amount to much; "not enough to live on but too much to die" as the Russians say.
5. About 150 Soviet citizens are employed teaching the Russian language to Chinese at a school which the Chinese authorities have established at K'angwan. To obtain an appointment as a language instructor the applicant must pass examinations on the history of the Communist party, the constitution (Stalin's) of the USSR, and dialectic materialism. Stalin on world economy has recently been added to the required subjects. No examination is given in the language.
6. In ordinary dealings with Russian residents the Chinese authorities made no distinction between Soviet citizens and "stateless" Russians. They are equally subject to arrest by the Chinese authorities for criminal offenses. For example tax evasion or violation of the currency regulations. [redacted] one Soviet citizen [redacted] was jailed by the Chinese authorities for a year on a tax evasion charge and then expelled. The Soviet consular authorities refuse to interfere in such cases. [redacted] no Russian was pressed to contribute to the various Communist bond drives, nor were they asked to participate in Communist parades or demonstrations. The Chinese authorities evidently did not wish foreigners to participate in any governmental activities as foreigners were never made members of the block committees.
7. [redacted] the relations between the USSR Consulate and Soviet citizens. The consular staff holds aloof from the local colony and its relations with even the Soviet Citizen's Association are limited and formal. A Soviet citizen deals with the USSR Consulate only for the renewal of his passport and to obtain permission to emigrate. In the latter case he must first clear with the Soviet Citizens Association. In all other matters he deals with the Association. [redacted] before the Association will clear an applicant it requires him to pay up all back dues and charges a fee as well; [redacted]
8. Illustrating the gap between the USSR consular authorities and the local Soviet citizens, when a Soviet ballet troupe visited Shanghai under Soviet government auspices in 1952, local Soviet citizens were refused permission to attend the performances.
9. The "stateless" Russians in Shanghai are of course bitterly opposed to the Chinese Communist regime and critical of it in all respects. Soviet citizens do not dare express a derogatory opinion and hence keep silent.
10. It is universally believed in Shanghai that there are USSR advisers in such important government organs as the Bank of China, the police, the foreign affairs bureau, and other municipal offices, but no one ever sees the advisers [redacted]
11. As to the attitude of the Chinese public toward Russians, [redacted] the Chinese authorities have issued orders that no foreigner is to be molested. For example it used to be that if a foreigner became involved in an altercation with a rickshaw coolie the police would always find the foreigner at fault. Now the opposite is the case and the coolie is always in the wrong. Russians are well treated. The term "big nose" as applied to them is forbidden. Occasionally Chinese will ask a Russian if he is "white" or "red"; they seem to prefer the "reds". Russian is spoken in many of the shops and often a picture of Stalin flanks one of Mao Tse-tung. [redacted]

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- 25X1 12. The only USSR or satellite goods [REDACTED] on sale were Czech "Tatra"
25X1 bicycles in a Chinese government cooperative, and USSR cotton prints which
25X1 were on sale in many shops. [REDACTED]
25X1 [REDACTED] USSR streptomycin is on sale [REDACTED]
25X1 [REDACTED] the injections
25X1 were painful and caused swellings, but the drug was effective. Penicillin of
25X1 French manufacture was available. For some time /1951-52/ drugs were in
25X1 short supply but during the last few months [REDACTED] to end-Feb 53/
25X1 it was not difficult to procure them. Permission to import drugs from Hong Kong
was granted to anyone who could produce a doctor's certificate attesting
illness in the family. When the drugs were received in Shanghai the Customs
removed the labels to prevent the recipient selling them. The duty was 40%/45%.

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